The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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## *Labor Opposes U. S. Intervention In China, President Green Declares*

Washington, April 30.—Declaring that the revolutionary movement in China "is the culmination of a growing desire on the part of the Chinese people for the enjoyment of self-government and the blessings of liberty and freedom," William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an article in the May number of the American Federationist, maintains that the laboring people of the United States would be opposed to the United States Government doing anything more in China than to extend protection to American lives and property.

President Green points out that "for many years a spirit of discontent has manifested itself in China and as a result a progressive movement, having for its objective the establishment of a Nationalist republican form of government, has been gaining strength and power.

"This growing demand for the establishment of a free China has been accentuated by the action of certain foreign governments in demanding the enjoyment of extra-territorial rights and special concessions in Chinese territory.

"As in all movements of this kind many destructive forces manifest themselves. The subdued feelings of groups of people who resent the imposition of injustice and wrong are given full play. During such experiences the people are susceptible to destructive influences and are in a frame of mind to absorb and espouse destructive doctrines. This is taking place in China."

Although expressing the opinion that "communism and communistic philosophy will make some headway in China," President Green believes that its influence will be temporary and unimportant. "There is no danger of a revolution in China resulting in the establishment of a Soviet government or a government of communistic rule."

"The American labor movement believes that the Chinese people should be given the widest and fullest opportunity to establish a government of their own choosing and to exercise its sovereignty without interference from other nations. The great powers which have admittedly been encroaching upon Chinese territory should immediately declare their purpose to withdraw from Chinese soil, to give up every concession which they had gained through force or otherwise and thus leave China free to work out its own destiny.

"Such action would give recognition to the commonly accepted principle of self-determination of the people and the right of all nations, great and small, weak or powerful, to settle their own national, social and political problems in their own way and in accordance with their own ideals."

## ANOTHER "BUNK" WAVE RECEDES

Scientific psychologists are declaring that the so-called "employment expert" is 99 per cent bunk.

The country has been swept by a psychological wave since the war, but a reaction is taking place. These witch doctors would lead one to believe that by some mysterious process they can submit a person to a series of tests and then assign him to his life vocation.

John B. Watson, former professor of psychology at Johns Hopkins University, calls for common sense in the selection of applicants for jobs. He says there is no miraculous formula, and that practical experience is the test for a man's usefulness.

Harry D. Kitson, vocation specialist of Columbia University, also debunks the intelligence tests that have been so popular the past few years. He rejects the theory of vocational guidance. "Notwithstanding the intensity of our efforts we must admit that we have made no progress toward our goal," he said. "Although we have found that tests are of some service in vocational selection, we have not found them to be the solution of the problems of vocational guidance, a distinction that is sometimes lost sight of."

These views oppose the theory of so-called "employment experts" that workers should be considered so many pegs and that by the use of a secret formula the hole can be found in which each peg will fit.

## "HIGH" WAGES HIT MINNESOTA WOMEN

St. Paul, Minn., April 30.—The loudly acclaimed high wages which it is alleged exist throughout the United States are not prevalent among women and boy wage earners in Minnesota. This is revealed by the wage statistics presented in the 1925-1926 biennial report of the Industrial Commission of Minnesota.

Of the 33,784 women and boys covered by the report, 3,457 received less than $12 per week; 9,440 received $12 and under $15; 11,638 received $15 and under $20, while only 9,249 received $20 a week and over.

The average weekly wage for Minnesota as a whole was $17.37.

The report does not state to what extent the 33,784 wage earners invested their savings in stocks and bonds.

## MAINE LEGISLATURE PASSES LABOR LAWS

Portland, Me., April 30.—The Maine legislature has authorized a thorough investigation of the workmen's compensation law during the 11 years of its existence and amended the state child labor act by raising the employment age from the sixth to the eighth grade, making illegal the employment of minors under 16 as operators of elevators in hotels, lodging houses and apartments and as attendants or ushers in theaters, and prohibiting the employment of minors under 14 in bowling alleys and poolrooms. The legislature also accepted the Shepherd-Towner maternity act and made an appropriation for its administration.

These measures were sponsored by the Maine State Federation of Labor.

## COURTS ARE WRONG IN SACCO-VANZETTI CASE

Springfield, Mass., April 30.—"The Massachusetts courts, for one reason or another, have gone wrong in the Sacco-Vanzetti case," says the influential Springfield Republican.

"It is most unfortunate in this case that the State Supreme Court, in passing on criminal appeals, is limited to questions of law. The New York court of appeals in such a case may inquire exhaustively into the facts as well as pass on law points, and it may grant a new trial if convinced that the verdict of the lower court was not sustained by the weight of evidence. No such broad review by the supreme court exists in Massachusetts. Hence the shocking statements by our highest court in its latest decision in the Sacco-Vanzetti case: 'It is not for us to determine what is to be believed.' The lower court has a judicial monopoly of that, before which even the supreme court must stand in awe.

"According to Judge Thayer: 'The evidence that convicted these defendants was circumstantial and was evidence that is known in law as consciousness of guilt.'

"That is to say, when Sacco and Vanzetti were first arrested, they acted like guilty men.

"Granted that they acted as if guilty of something. No one denies it. Does that fact prove beyond a reasonable doubt, in a capital case, that they were guilty of a particular murder when there is evidence to show that they feared arrest and deportation for offenses less grave by far? Sacco and Vanzetti were radical aliens; they had fled to Mexico to escape the war draft. They had returned and were the sort Attorney General Palmer had attempted to deport as the result of his Red raids. Here at least is a plausible, if not thoroughly convincing, explanation of that 'consciousness of guilt' at the time of their arrest on which the state has founded its conviction of the defendants as murderers.

"The Republican does not profess to be convinced of the innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti, and it never has professed to be. Who the assassins were it does not know. On the other hand The Republican has believed the evidence on which Sacco and Vanzetti were convicted to be unconvincing in the mass, weak in certain important parts and inconclusive where it should be the strongest. If a new trial can not be obtained, what would you? Put these men to death? Massachusetts can not afford to write such an act into her history."

## CAPITAL AND LABOR REAP THEIR REWARDS

New York, April 30.—At last we have a real justification for the extravagant dividends owners of industry are passing into their pockets. Some zealous extremist raised the objection that when an industrial corporation increases its dividend "no question is raised as to what service has been rendered by those who receive the dividend."

Whereupon the Wall Street Journal bleats that the people who receive the dividend take the risk of the corporations making no profits and take it right off the shoulders of the workers. "The investor, the partner in the business or the lender of money on bonds, receives the reward of his courage," shrieks the Journal." The United States Steel Corporation has just passed out a $260,000,000 melon to reward the courage of its stockholders.

Secretary of Labor Davis is authority for the statement that a conservative estimate indicates that over 23,000 workers are killed annually in American industries, while non-fatal injuries total 2,500,000 per year.

It would be interesting if we had figures of the dead and injured per annum in the hazardous calling of signing dividend checks and clipping interest coupons. It is the coupon clippers and the dividend check signers who receive the "reward of courage" clarion called by the Wall Street Journal.

## ITALIAN LABOR VICTIM OF AUTOCRACY

The "charter of labor," signed by Mussolini, and which has been given wide publicity in the American press, can be summed in a few words—strikes are abolished and compulsory arbitration will be enforced.

Lockouts are also abolished, but it must be remembered that when the right to strike is denied the employer has no use for the blacklist and lockout. These weapons are used to maintain the status quo.

To say that compulsory arbitration assures industrial peace is to fly in the face of past experiences and ignore human development.

Mussolini's "Charter of Labor" is as old as his autocratic Fascismo. Both rest on the ancient doctrine that the state is supreme and that the individual is subordinate. What the American calls inherent rights depends upon Mussolini's good will.

Only Fascist trade unions are permitted to function in Italy. Membership is restricted to Italians, male and female, over 21 years of age and "of good moral and political conduct from a national viewpoint." Non-Italians are denied membership, but they must pay dues and may profit by the labor contracts secured through state intervention.

The basic feature of the Fascismo industrial program is compulsory arbitration and state supervision.

American trade unionists must not delude themselves that this system is impossible in our own country.

Following the armistice the Mussolini policy was openly advocated on the floor of the United States Senate. The leaders of this program were Senators Poindexter of Washington and Myers of Montana.

Henry Allen, then governor of Kansas, was a candidate for vice president in 1920 on a program of "industrial peace" based on compulsory arbitration and making strikes illegal.

A large section of the public press that now refers to Mussolini's "charter of labor" as a new experiment in social philosophy, took the same position toward the program urged by the Allens, Myers and Poindexters. The newspapers and other molders of public opinion were defeated by the unity of organized labor.

These foes of liberty for the workers now find that courts are their best aid. Since the armistice many decisions hostile to labor have been handed down. The latest—the stone cutters' case—holds that workers even can not refuse to handle a product of non-union labor, as this is an interference with interstate commerce.

This decision is declared by Justice Brandeis of the United States Supreme Court to be "involuntary servitude."

It is immaterial who annuls the workers' rights. Whether it be a political dictator or a court, the result is the same.

Trade unions must wage a continuous agitation against this autocratic tendency. Education is the antidote for a denial of the right of wage workers to live as normal humans.

## *Low Wages and Broken Contracts Wenatchee Apple Growers' Policy*

Wenatchee, Wash., April 30.—Low wages, broken wage contracts, and police brutality to drive wage boosters from the community are among the indictments made against the apple growers in the Wenatchee Valley of Washington, known as the apple empire of the world, in a report on the 1926 apple harvest made by Louise F. Richards for the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

At the beginning of the season the rate for picking was 4½ cents a box. Toward the end of the season some of the pickers demanded more and made "threats" to the workers who accepted lower rates. Here is what happened:

"Complaint by the growers caused the Wenatchee police to swoop down upon the camps one evening, where they rounded up 50 or 60 floaters, and offered them a choice between going to work or leaving the community. A number consented to accept jobs. Some who refused to go to work were penniless and were thrown into the city jail on the charge of vagrancy. Others had money and were taken to the railway station and were forced to buy tickets and to leave on the next train."

This is the negative policy applied by the apple orchard capitalists to apple pickers who demand higher wages and refuse to work until they get them.

The positive policy applied by the same gentry to those who are ready to go to work at contract prices is equally odious. According to the report, one of the reasons for the heavy labor turnover was the fact that "the orchardists did not live up to their agreements with the workers" and did not regard their agreement with the employment office as binding.

"The two following illustrations of these facts," the report points out, "are typical of hundreds. Six pickers offered, through the employment office, jobs at the rate of 5 cents a box and three sorters offered 5 cents a box found the positions filled, and received abusive treatment from the ranch foreman. Three sorters drove in their own car to a ranch 60 miles distant, after receiving the United States employment cards in personal conference with the ranch owner. At the end of the 60-mile drive they presented their cards. The foreman told them he had no jobs open and would assume no responsibility for the ranch owner's placement of the order. The applicants demanded satisfaction through an appeal to the county agricultural agent. The boss then offered to compromise, and paid the automobile expense and wages at the rate of $3 a day for the three of them, a total of $15.50."

## STRIKEBREAKERS.

"The time is rapidly arriving—in the older trade unions has already arrived—when the fact that a workman is a non-unionist is prima facie evidence that he is also an incompetent," declares David Evans, editor of the International Engineer, the official organ of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers.

"Non-union labor is usually overworked and underpaid labor.

"The very instinct of self-preservation, therefore, justifies the union workman in condemning the strikebreaker.

"The strikebreaker occupies in the industrial world a position precisely analogous to that of the renegade and traitor.

"He represents a type of man universally condemned in any other sphere of human activity.

"He sells himself for less than the thirty pieces of silver, but too often lacks the grace which caused Iscariot to go and hang himself.

"He commits the unpardonable sin of betraying his fellows.

"He purloins that to which he has no claim and is the one stumbling block in the path of the onward advance of the wage earners.

"The attempt to make him respectable reflects discredit upon those engaged in it.

"For all practical purposes in civilized lands, we may hold that the test of the Golden Rule furnishes a sufficiently accurate measurement of the morality of any present-day code of action.

"If the code does not meet the test, it is not moral, no matter if it be legal.

"How does the act of the strikebreaker square with the sublime injunction, 'Do unto others as ye would have them do unto you'?

"By what tortuous logic can it be asserted that the man who, from selfish personal interest, seeks to profit by the industrial difficulties of his fellow-men, is acting in accordance with the Golden Rule?"

## *FASCIST LABOR CHARTER*

By WILLIAM GREEN
President, American Federation of Labor

**The so-called Fascist "Charter of Labor" is a proclamation of enslavement in that it reduces the working people subject to it to a condition of industrial servitude.**

**It is a blow at human freedom and sets up compulsory methods in industry for private initiative and freedom of contract.**

**It completely destroys the principle and processes of collective bargaining.**

**The world has never witnessed a greater exhibition of autocracy gone mad.**

**The principles underlying the so-called "Charter of Labor" are the same as the principles underlying the industrial and political policies pursued by the Soviet government in Russia.**

**Each of them seek to establish the superiority and domination of the state over the individual and over individual liberty and human freedom.**

**Through decrees they impose upon the individual rules and regulations which control the most sacred and the most priceless possessions of human life.**

## STATE COLLECTS WAGES FOR UNPAID EMPLOYES

Denver, Colo., April 30.—During 1925 and 1926 the Colorado Bureau of Labor Statistics collected $41,903.68 in wage claims submitted by Colorado workers against employers. There is no legal authority for such activity by the bureau. But the almost helpless condition of those who apply for assistance prompts the office to do all it can to secure for the claimants the wages rightfully due them.

The hostility of employers to the bureau's wage collection system is revealed by the bureau's statement that in a majority of cases a final settlement is not effected until a large number of trips are made.

## LONGSHOREMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Washington, April 30.—Longshoremen and other harbor workers are placed in an unfortunate position by the failure of the recent congress to appropriate money for the administration of the longshoremen's compensation act.

The law becomes effective July 1. After that date suits for damages for injuries are abrogated, and no stevedoring company may make a contract to render service for loading or unloading a vessel without a certificate from the deputy commissioner of the district. The United States Employes' Compensation is charged with the general administration of the act, but without funds it is placed in an embarrassing condition.

Although applying primarily to longshoremen engaged in loading and unloading vessels, the act includes also more than a score of crafts or trades—such as plumbers, painters and upholsterers—whose work is called for on an extensive scale in modern vessels.

Until the enactment of the present law longshoremen and other harbor workers, numbering several hundred thousand, have been in a peculiar position. If injured on a dock, a longshoreman received the benefits of the state workmen's compensation law, but if injured on a boat or in connection therewith, his only redress was to sue under the admiralty law or the common law.

## EIGHT HOURS FOR WOMEN

Phoenix, Ariz., April 30.—The new eight-hour law restricts the daily hours of women workers to eight and limits the work week to six days. The old law permitted the seven-day and 56-hour week. Women in manufacturing establishments, places of amusement, and railroad restaurants or eating houses on railroad property, none of whom was covered by the old law, are included in the new one.

## British Labor Solid Against Labor's Foes, Says MacDonald

Washington, April 30.—"Labor will give no quarter nor ask none in its opposition to the British government's trade union bill," said Ramsey MacDonald at a dinner given to the former Labor Premier of Great Britain by the American Federation of Labor Executive Council.

President Green presided, and those present included Sir Esme Howard, British ambassador to the United States; Vincent Massey, Canadian minister; Miss Ishbel MacDonald; Secretary of Labor Davis; former Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson; Ethelbert Stewart, commissioner of labor statistics; Hugh Kerwin, commissioner of conciliation, Department of Labor; Secretary Frank Morrison, and Vice Presidents James Duncan, James Wilson and James Noonan, and many representatives of the A. F. of L. affiliates and the railroad brotherhoods.

The former Premier made a spirited defense of the British workers' organized industrial and political movements. There were differences between them, "but I am not one of those who believe in uniformity," he said.

"The labor movement has made history and will continue to make history. If the world is to enjoy peace not by force but by moral righteousness it will be through the workers' collective efforts. Our political movement is not a miserable, pettifogging class movement. Our Labor party will again rule. Then, as during the nine months that it was in power, it will rule in the interests of the nation and will show the world that instead of destroying wealth, it will leap to a greater creation of wealth and give to those who create that wealth their just share."

In referring to the government's attack on the trade union movement, through legislation now pending, the speaker claimed that labor will present a united front against this proposal. He said the party in power has been repudiated at by-elections, and that it is without the moral support of the country.

"The balance of power is with us," he declared. "They have no moral mandate. If they succeed in outlawing our trade unions, the first work of the Labor party when it wins its place on the government benches will be to undo this legislation."

## *Labor Output in Bottle Industry 40 Times Greater Than in 1899*

Washington, April 30.—Wholesale scrapping of workers and revolutionary increases in output and cost reduction are the outstanding features of machine production in the manufacture of glass products, declares the Monthly Labor Review of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics in a report on the displacement of labor by machinery in the glass industry.

"In no other industry has the introduction of machinery had a more dramatic effect upon labor productivity," says the report.

"Thus, to take an extreme example, in the blowing of four-ounce prescription bottles, the average output per man is more than 41 times as great with the automatic machine as with the hand processes which were in general use up to less than 20 years ago. This means a great reduction in the number of workers necessary to turn out a given quantity of product. It also means a great change in the character of the labor force. Instead of a group of very highly skilled glass blowers, assisted by a group of unskilled 'boys,' the automatic machine employs mechanics and machine operators, with little or no demand for child labor."

The tragic displacement of labor and marvelous increase in output and decrease in cost by substituting machine for hand production are shown by two illuminating examples.

In the manufacture of bottles, the report points out, "a hand 'shop,' consisting of three skilled workers (a gatherer, a blower, and a finisher) and four helpers can produce on the average 3.75 gross of four-ounce prescription ovals per hour. The 1925 average output of the most up-to-date Owens automatic machine was 69.754 gross of four-ounce prescription ovals per hour. The average output of the hand shop is 0.536 gross per man per hour, while with the automatic machine the average is 22.028 gross per man per hour, or more than 41 times as much as in the hand process.

Based on the 1925 wage rates, the direct blowing labor cost of a four-ounce prescription oval made by hand would be $1.177 per gross. With the Owens automatic machine, the 1925 direct blowing labor cost of the same kind of bottle was 3.15 cents per gross. For every dollar spent on blowing a four-ounce prescription oval by hand, the labor cost on the Owens automatic machine was but 2.70 cents.

In the manufacture of electric light bulbs, "a hand-shop, consisting of a gatherer and a blower, assisted by a section boy and a cutting-off boy, can produce on the average 121.98 40-watt electric light bulbs per hour, or 54.21 pieces per man per hour. The 1925 average output of the new type Westlake automatic machine was 2,342.44 bulbs per hour, or 1,703.59 pieces per man per hour, more than 31 times as much as by the hand process. The average blowing labor cost by the hand process was $13.88 per 1,000 pieces, as compared with $0.470 by the machine process. The saving in labor cost effected by the automatic machine was 96.61 cents on every dollar required for the hand process."

Taking the industry as a whole, the report gives impressive figures relative to the increase in yearly output per man under hand production in 1899, compared with machine production in 1925.

In the manufacture of bottles and jars one man in 1899 produced 274 gross per year; in 1925 the quantity was raised to 1,200 gross, an increase of 338 per cent. In pressed and blown ware one man in 1899 produced 28,694 pieces; in 1925 the output was raised to 91,272 pieces, an increase of 218.1 per cent. In window glass one man in 1899 produced 500 boxes; in 1926 the output was raised to 1,359 pieces, an increase of 171.8 per cent. In plate glass one man in 1899 produced 5,240 square feet; in 1925 the output was raised to 10,551 pieces, an increase of 101.3 per cent.

Yearly earnings per worker have more than doubled in 25 years. "In 1899 the 52,818 wage earners in the industry received a total wage of $27,084,000, an average of $512.78 per wage earner per year. In 1925 the 69,371 wage earners received a total wage of $86,736,000, an average of $1,250.32 per wage earner, or nearly two and one-half times as much as in 1899. But in making these comparisons it must be remembered that the group of wage earners in 1899 contained a large percentage of workers under 16 years of age, with extremely low wages; whereas in 1925 the number of minors under 16 years was practically nil."

## WORKERS' DENTAL CLINIC SUCCESS WITHOUT PROFIT

New York, April 30.—Forty thousand men and women employed in the ladies' garment industry have been treated within the last ten years at the dental clinic of the Union Health Center, established by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Dr. George M. Price, director of the center, reports.

The dental department was established in 1913. It now has a clientele of 5,500 patients per year and an income of over $80,000. The clinic is operated without commercial profit.

## IMMIGRANTS DUMPED

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, April 30.—Premier George Hoadley of the Alberta government has protested to Robert Forke, Canadian Minister of Immigration, against the dumping of Swiss and other European immigrants in Alberta. Premier Hoadley charges that immigrants are being sent to Alberta apparently as farm workers who are actually unskilled laborers and unsuited for farm work. No provision is made for their arrival, and with a considerable unemployment among unskilled labor they are thrown upon the public for support.

## BRITISH GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO DESTROY TRADE UNIONISM AND ENSLAVE WORKERS

London, Eng., April 30.—"The Trades Disputes and Trades Union Bill is a deliberate attack, inspired by motives of class and partisan hostility, upon the workers' organizations, designed to deprive them of their effective powers of resistance when their standards of living and conditions of employment are assailed by organized employers," declares the National Joint Council, representing the industrial, political and parliamentary labor movement of Great Britain, in announcing its strong determination to oppose the Baldwin government's trade union bill by an energetic campaign in Parliament and in the country.

The principal provisions of the bill deal with the right to strike, blacklegging, picketing, the political levy, and trade unionism in the public services.

"On these points the bill definitely invades the rights of trade unionists in a manner that no previous government has dared to do for 100 years," declares a joint statement issued by the Trades Union Congress and the Labor Party.

"The workmen's right to combine and to act together for the maintenance and improvement of their standards has been established for more than a century. But this bill imposes outrageous restrictions and conditions upon the action of the trade unions of a kind hitherto unknown to the law.

"In view of the ferocious proposals in the bill, and the well known anti-labor bias of the courts, we may easily find ourselves in a few years in the same position that the workers occupied at the beginning of the 19th century.

"In 1812, 40,000 Scottish cotton weavers struck because the employers refused to accept a table of piecework rates declared by magistrates to be reasonable, and obtained by the operatives at a cost of 3,000 pounds sterling.

"The whole strike committee was arrested by the police. The five leaders were sentenced to imprisonment varying from 4 to 18 months.

"Seven scissor grinders were sentenced in 1816 to three months' imprisonment for belonging to the 'Misfortune Club,' which paid out-of-work benefit and sought to maintain the customary rates.

"In December, 1817, the Bolton constables arrested ten delegates of the calico printers from various districts of the kingdom meeting on New Year's day. The delegates suffered three months' imprisonment, although no dispute was in progress.

"In 1818 certain Bolton mill owners suggested to the operative weavers that they should concert together to leave the employment of those employers who paid below the current rate. A meeting of 40 delegates took place, and it was resolved to ask for the advance agreed to by the 'good' employers.

"A fortnight later the president and two secretaries were arrested, convicted of conspiracy and imprisoned for one and two years, respectively.

"In the same year, 1818, the leaders of some cotton spinners who had combined to raise wages were sentenced to two years' imprisonment under a 1305 statute.

"The spleen of the so-called courts of justice vented itself against the workers whenever there was a chance, as the following instances show:

"Men were sent to prison under the criminal law amendment act for peacefully accosting workmen in the street.

**"In 1871 seven women were imprisoned in South Wales for merely saying 'Bah' to one blackleg, and innumerable convictions took place for the use of bad language.**

"In December, 1872, sentence of 12 months' imprisonment was passed upon London gas stokers, who were found guilty of 'conspiracy' to coerce or molest their employers by merely preparing for a simultaneous withdrawal of their labor.

"In 1872 or 1873, at Chipping Norton, 16 agricultural laborers' wives, some with babies, were sent to prison with hard labor for 'intimidating' certain non-union men.

"In 1893, the officers of the unions of various building trades, and a joint committee of such trades, were held liable in damages to an employer merely for having persuaded workmen not to renew their engagements, no coercion or intimidation being alleged.

"Are we to return to these conditions?

"The government bill would answer 'Yes.'

"But the workers will fight to the death against these proposals."